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of the ninth century, in the Royal Library at Munich, in which the Scribe has written the following sentence in Anglo-Saxon runes: "*Omnis labor finem habet, præmium ejus non habet finem. Madalfrid scripsit istam partem. Deo gratias quod ego perfeci opus meum.*" Thus recording his name, which he may not have been allowed to do without resorting to this artifice, and at the same time giving a proof of his learning.

Mr. Graves insists much upon the importance of determining, with precision, the date of a manuscript so ancient, and of so much interest, as the Book of Armagh. By effecting this, a great advance is made towards the establishment of principles of palæography, by which we may estimate the age of Irish manuscripts in general; and we are furnished with the means of refuting the assertion, still repeated, that Ireland has no manuscripts of a date more ancient than the close of the ninth century.\*

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The Secretary of Council read the abstract of a paper by the Rev. Dr. Hincks, on the third Persepolitan Writing, and on the Mode of expressing Numerals in Cuneatic Characters.

"When I laid before the Academy, at its last sitting, my alphabet of the third Persepolitan writing, with the corresponding lapidary characters, I by no means expected that it would prove perfectly correct; no first attempt at the alphabet of an unknown language has been so. I considered it, however, an approximation, and probably as near a one as could be attained by means of the data in my possession; and I looked forward to its being amended by those who had the command of more numerous inscriptions. There were some circumstances which left no doubt on my mind that error existed somewhere in it, though I could not discover where. The number of dentals was too small; there was no character

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\* See Moore's History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 310.

for the word corresponding to the compound epithet, *wysada-hyôsh*, in Du, were only *in part* legible; and the manner of writing the name *Ormusd* in the inscription H, and that of Artaxerxes on the vase at Venice, could only be explained by supposing the sculptors to have committed errors. All these for *tu* or *du*; the name in NRu, answering to *Harautish*, and difficulties, and others connected with the first inscription of the East India Company, have been removed by an important rectification, or series of rectifications, which I have made during the past fortnight; and the language has, moreover, been brought to exhibit a much greater similarity to the other Semitic ones than I had at first supposed. I have, therefore, to request leave to substitute the alphabet which I now send for that in my last paper. As the correspondence between the cursive and lapidary characters in the plate to that paper is correctly given, though the values of many of the characters are erroneous, and as the plate is, I believe, partly engraved, I propose to let it stand, with so much of the paper as is necessary for understanding it; but the transcriptions of Babylonian words into Roman characters, and the catalogue of Babylonian words, will be superseded by those which follow, which are much more correct. In the plate which I now send I give no lapidary characters, but instead thereof I give many additional Persepolitan ones; and at the foot of it I give a series of numbers from the rock inscription at Van, exhibiting the mode of expressing numbers in Cuneatic characters on to 100,000. These are so arranged as to require no comment; but it may be proper to state that the large numbers are those of men belonging to different nations which are named; and I presume they refer to the deportation of these nations, according to the Assyrian practice. The historic character of these inscriptions, of which I received a copy very recently, is obvious."

The President made a few remarks upon the present state of the researches connected with Persepolitan writing, and

upon the position occupied by Dr. Hincks in these investigations.

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The President presented to the Academy a set of coloured drawings of celts and other antiquities, found in Cornwall, which he had procured through the kindness of a friend residing in that country. It appeared from a comparison of them with the corresponding objects in the Museum of the Academy, that there was an exact resemblance of form. The Cornish antiquities of this kind are, however, comparatively rare.

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#### DONATIONS.

*Runamo og Braavalleslaget, med fem lithographerede Tavler, af J. J. A. Worsaae.* Presented by the Author.

*Tillæg til "Runamo og Braavalleslaget."* 1845.

*Giornale dell' I. R. Istituto Lombardo di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.* Tom. IV. e V. 1844 and 1845.

*Memorie dell' I. R. Istituto Lombardo di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.* Vol. 2do. 1845.

*Elogio di Bonaventura Cavalieri da Gabrio Piola.* Presented by the Institute.

*Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London for 1846.* Parts 1, 2, and 3.

*Proceedings of the Royal Society.* 1845. Nos. 62-65. Presented by the Society.

*The Transactions of the Microscopical Society of London.* Vol. I., Parts 1 and 2 ; Vol. II., Part 1. Presented by the Society.

*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.* Nos. 166, 167. 1845. Presented by the Society.

*Bulletin des Séances de la Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles.* No. 12. 1846. Presented by the Society.

*Oversigt over det Kongelige danske Videnskabernes Selskabs*